




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (5.13 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In doing so I pay tribute to the work of the minister, who has been a tower of strength in this regard. I will avoid going over ploughed ground by talking about the impacts on business and households. We know that. That is without question. I will avoid talking in depth about the fact that somehow there has been a culture previously that the only way to change behaviour is through tax; the only way to get a result is to flog somebody in the hip pocket. I think those speakers before me have covered that very eloquently. Where I will make my contribution is in the area of local government. I can make this contribution as somebody who lived through the insidious introduction of this tax. It was one of the greatest rush jobs ever seen. Councils were asking, 'Please do not introduce this in the middle of a financial year. Please do not introduce this when you have one side of politics saying they are going to repeal this. Please do not push your green ideology on local government.' Yet there was no movement whatsoever. What particularly upsets me is that in the case of local councils no-one could say they were shy in putting this view forward. Local government said very, very clearly it did not want to collect this tax on behalf of the state. It did not want to be a puppet for the state government. It did not want to be a collection agency for a failed bad tax. It said that very clearly. I can tell members what local government really did not want. It did not want to pay it. That was the irony in all of this. This was the double-edged sword for local councils. They were asked to be a collection agency for something they did not believe in and were asked to foot the bill for their own business units. That was a great shame.

They were then asked to be tied up in some sort of red-tape game where instead of being what local governments used to be, and that is a place where you could go and put rubbish, they became engaged in some sort of paper warfare. In an era when people are disillusioned with what governments have to do, surely it behoves all of us to look for opportunities to make things more simple in everything we do. This had nothing to do with simplicity; it had everything to do with an agenda. It had nothing to do with the environment; it had everything to do with taxation dressed up as green ideology. It was a bad, bad tax. It was an insidious grab. It was an attack on local communities. It was an attack on local government, and nothing gives me more pleasure than to see this removed this evening.

The final comment I wish to make is around clarity on this being removed. No-one can say that we did not go with the clearest of intentions to the electorate.

Mr Rickuss: We didn't hide behind a bushel, did we?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Not at all. No-one can say that this was some sort of conceived thing on the run. It was campaigned on the whole way through. Every council in the state knew the position of the LNP. The state government knew the position of councils. We went clearly to the electorate, we asked

for their support and were rewarded on a few fronts. One of those was to reduce the cost of living, one of those was to restore some faith in the way government works and another was to reduce red tape. The Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill achieves those three objectives and I give it my full support.